A brand new comic!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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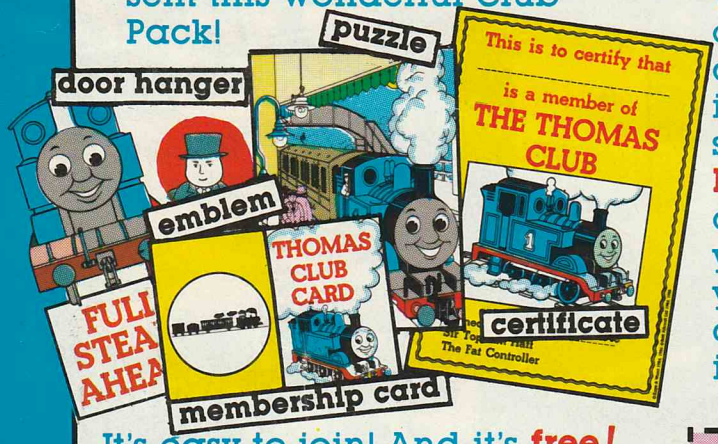
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!

Peep! Peep! Welcome to my brand new comic. From now on you can read about me and all my friends – and join in all our adventures – every fortnight!

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

As a member of the **Thomas Club,** you will be sent this wonderful Club Pack!



It's easy to join! And it's **free!** Just cut out the token below. There'll be one in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Collect **three** and send them together with a large stamped, self-addressed envelope (at least 21cm×16cm.) to: *The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* Please allow 28 days for delivery.

BEAT THE RUSH!

Want to collect your three tokens? Sold out at the newsagents? You can become a member of the **Thomas Club** immediately on taking out a year's subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** – for only £9 including postage and packing! Your comic will be sent to you every fortnight and you will receive your super Club Pack, plus membership card and number. Send no tokens! Just fill in the form below.

I should like to subscribe to *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* for one year and enclose cheque/P.O. for £9 including postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the *Thomas Club!* Cheques/P.O. to be made out to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

Name .....

Age ..... ***Birthday*** .....

Address .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

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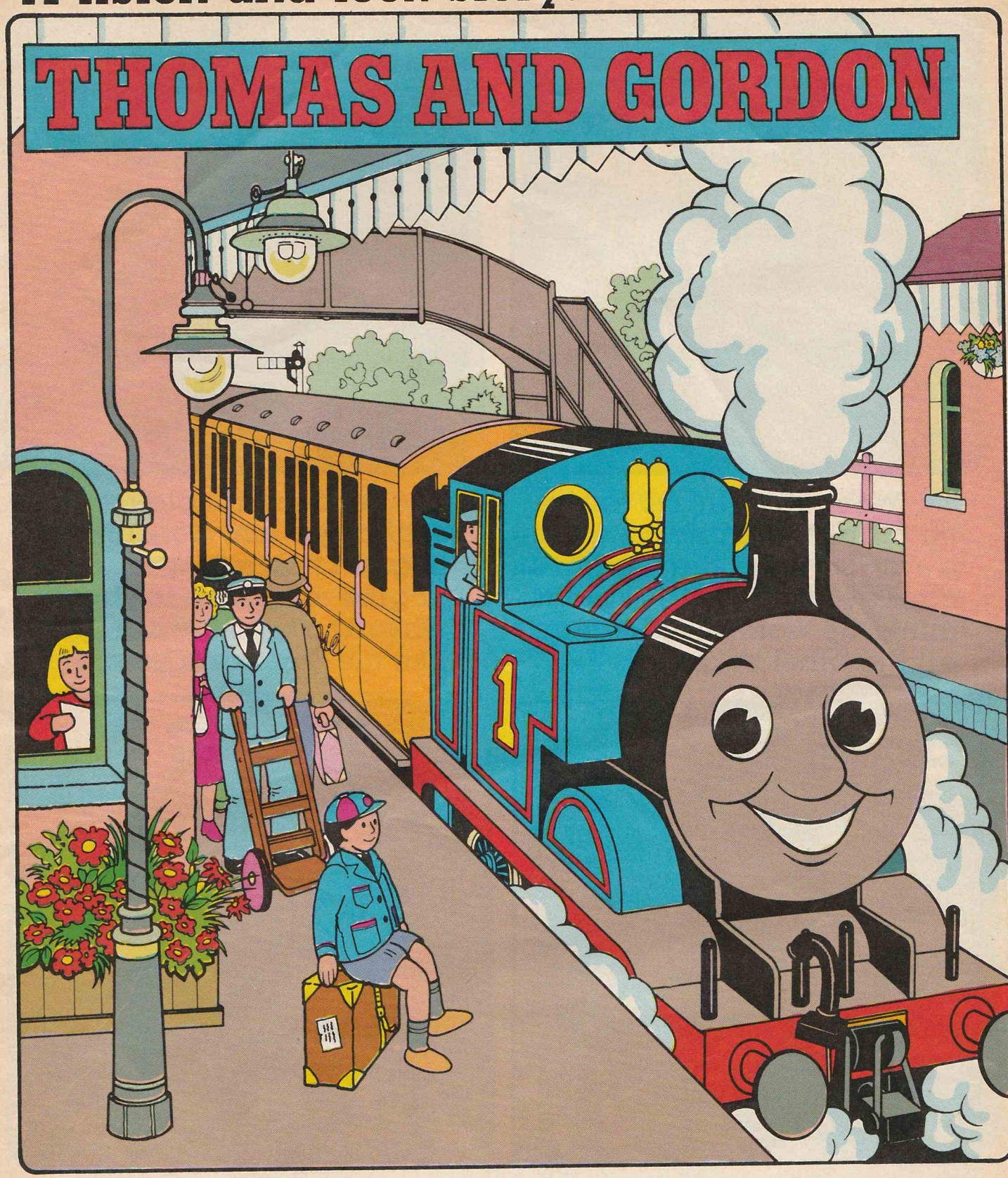
A listen and look story!



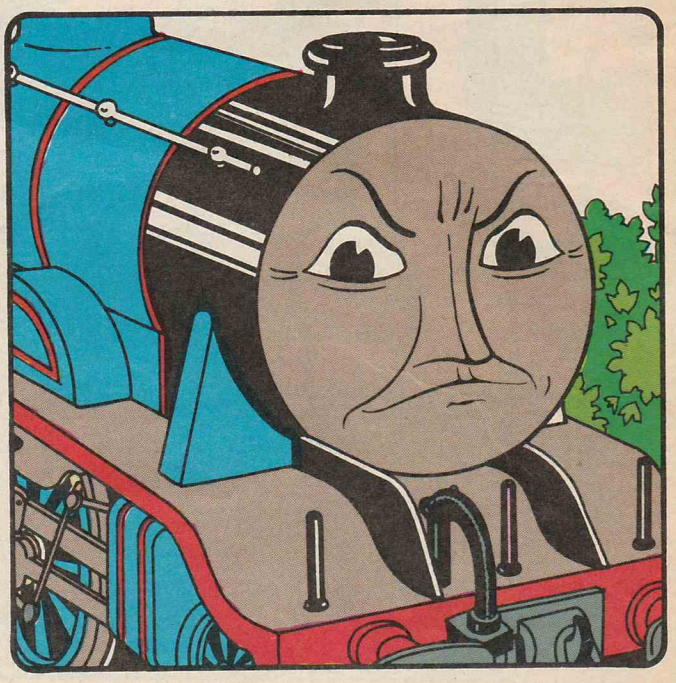
1. Thomas is a cheeky little tank engine. He lives at a big station on the island of Sodor. He has a funnel, a boiler, a dome and six small wheels.

2. Thomas has a very important job. He spends all day pulling the coaches ready for the big trains to take on long journeys. He is a very fussy little engine!

3. When the trains arrive he pulls the empty coaches away so that the engines can go and rest. Thomas thinks he works harder than all the other engines.

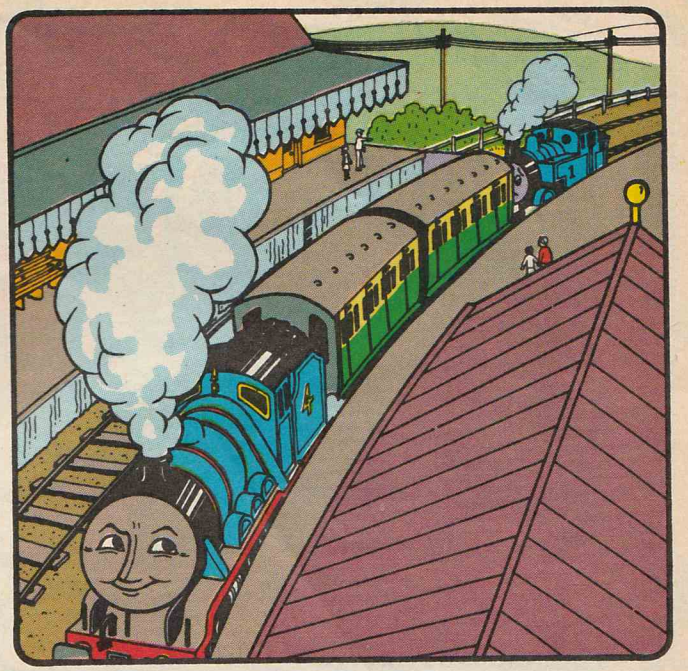
4. He likes to play tricks, especially on Gordon, the biggest and proudest engine of all. "Lazybones! Why don't you work hard like me?" he whistles rudely.

5. One day, after pulling the big express, Gordon was resting in the sidings, feeling very tired. Thomas ran past, shouting rudely, "Peep! Can't catch me!"



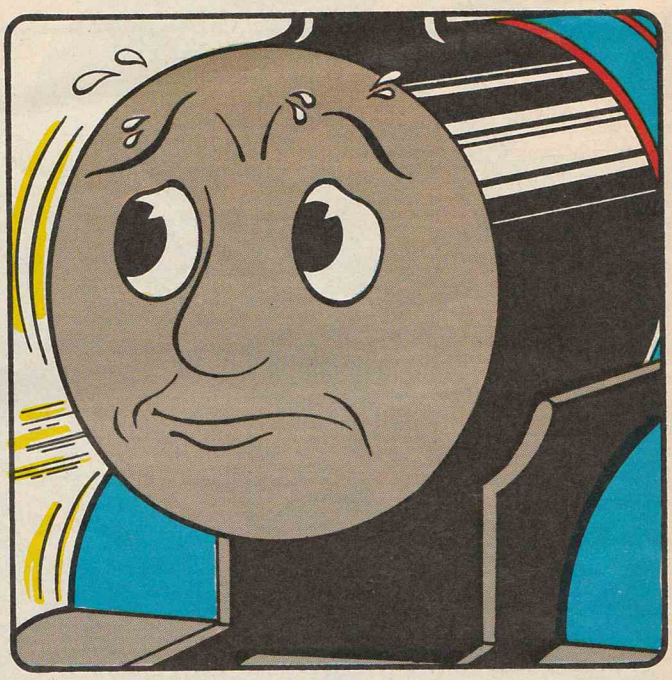
6. Gordon thought Thomas was very cheeky. Instead of going to sleep, he thought about how he could get back at the little tank engine.

7. One morning Thomas wouldn't wake up. "Hurry up!" said Gordon. "People are waiting for the coaches!" "Hurry yourself!" replied Thomas.

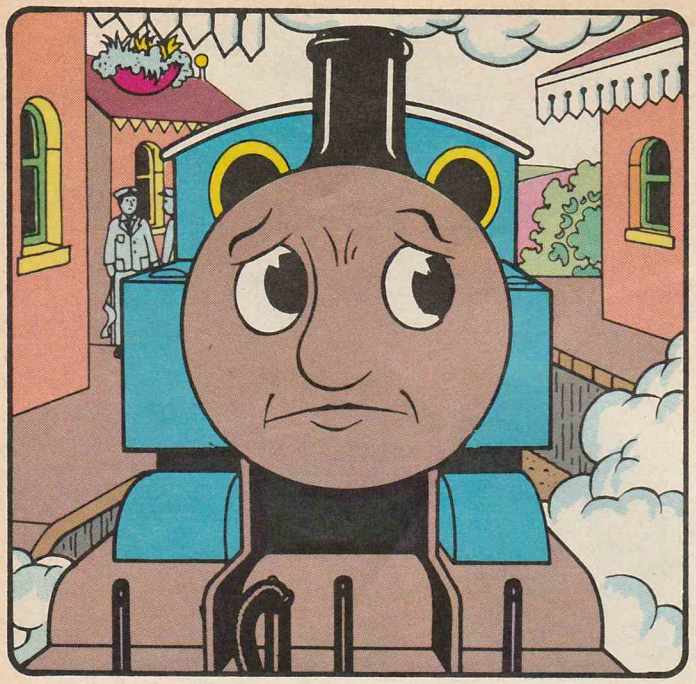


8. Gordon made his plan. Before Thomas could be uncoupled from the coaches Gordon started off, very quickly. "Come on!" he puffed to the coaches.

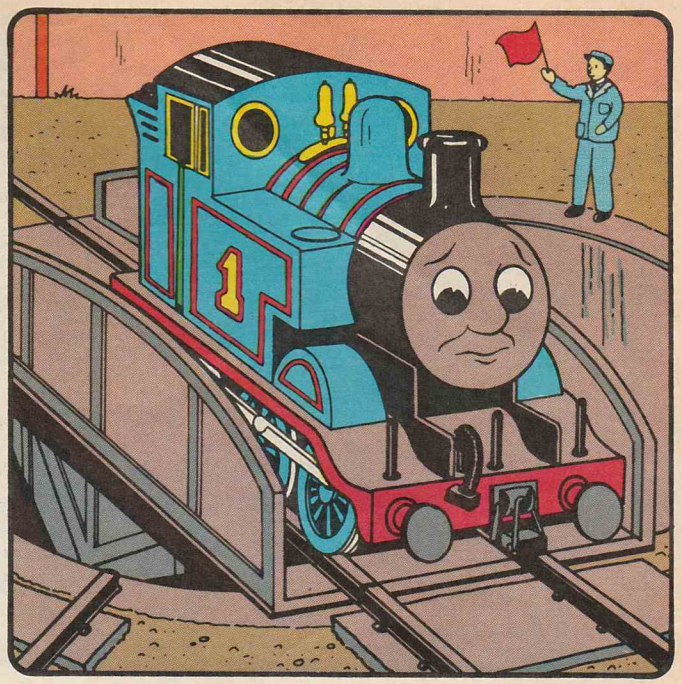
9. Gordon went faster and faster and Thomas was pulled behind him. "Stop! Stop!" he shouted as they raced along the track. But Gordon wouldn't listen.



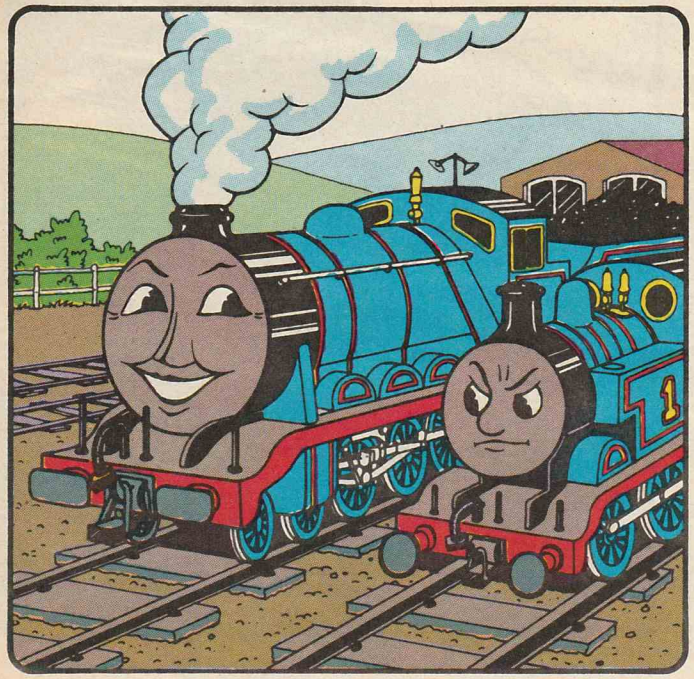
10. Poor Thomas had never gone so fast before. He was tired and his wheels hurt him. "Oh dear! I'll never be the same again!" he thought to himself.



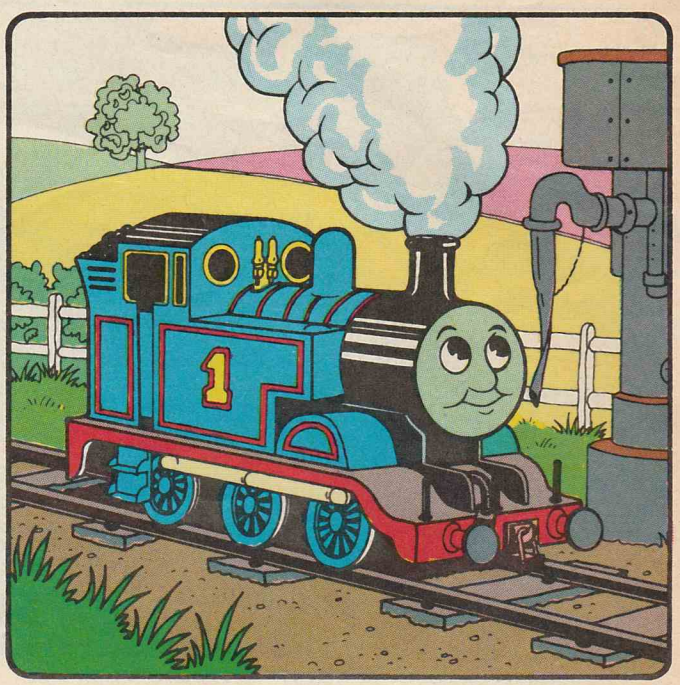
11. At long last they came into a station and stopped. Thomas was uncoupled. He felt very silly and exhausted. He was sure his wheels were quite worn out.



12. He was driven on to a turntable and then on to a siding out of the way of the other engines. He thought about everyone laughing at him.

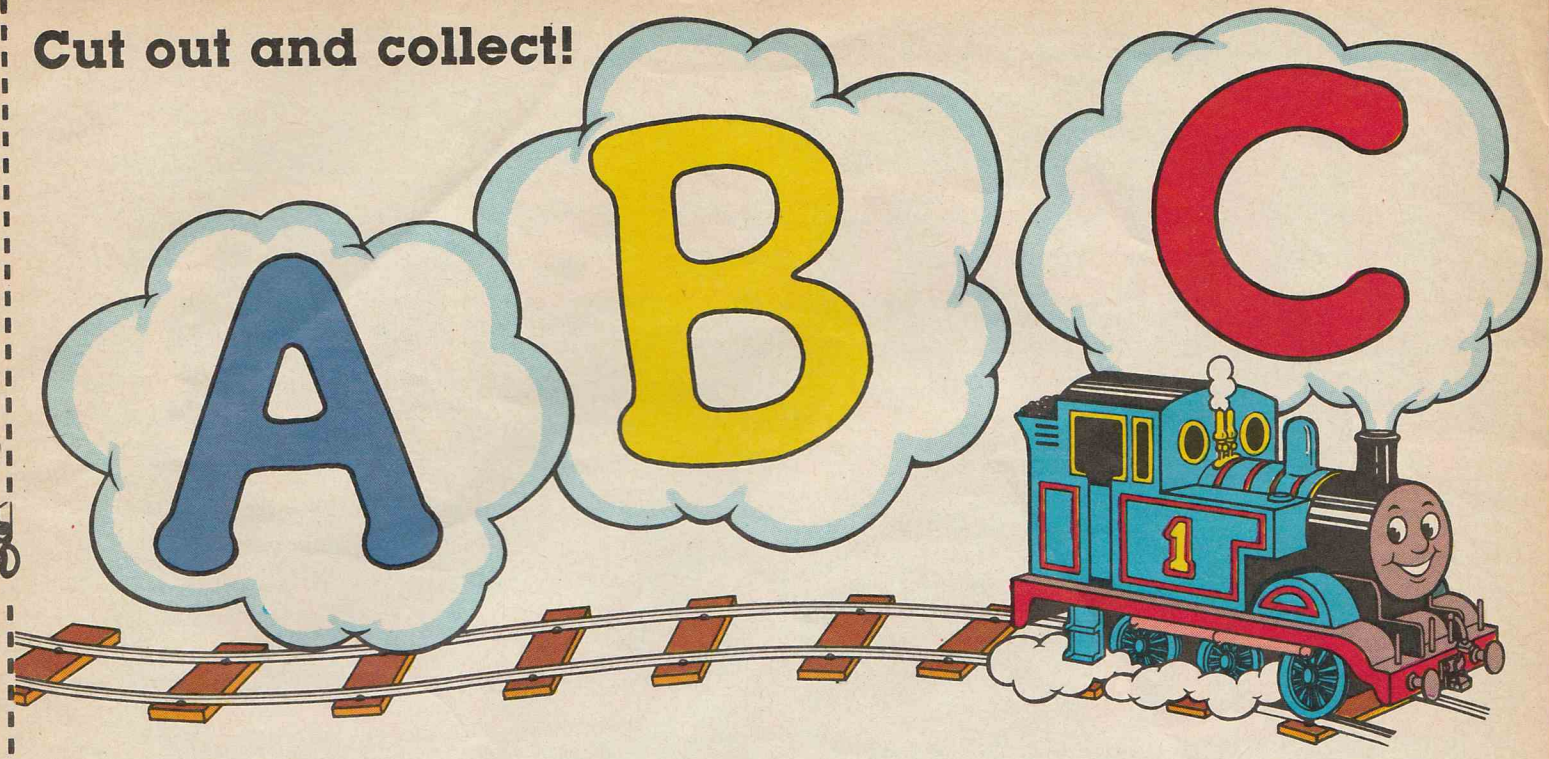


13. Gordon laughed loudest of all. "Well, little Thomas! Now you know what hard work means, don't you?" Thomas had no breath to answer him.



14. Thomas puffed away to have a long, cool drink. Then he went home, very slowly. From that day on he was careful never to be cheeky to Gordon again.

Cut out and collect!



Aa

apple

A read-aloud story!

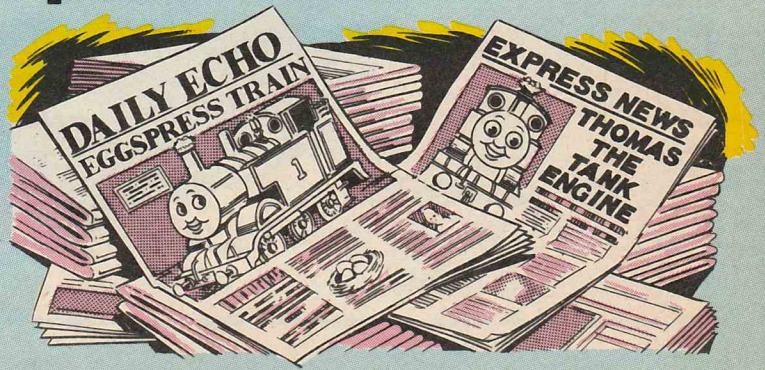
Thomas and the Bird's Nest!

Thomas was fast asleep. He had been working extra hard because Percy was away at the works.

When Thomas woke up he felt a strange itch in his funnel. Just then the Fat Controller came by to tell Thomas he was a good engine for working so hard.

"Thank you, Sir," said Thomas, "but I have got an itch in my funnel. Could you ask someone to have a look at it, please?" One of the firemen climbed up to see what was wrong.

"Upon my soul!" said the fireman. "A bird has built its nest in Thomas' funnel!" So it had, and the nest contained four eggs. The Fat Controller climbed up to have a look, and so did the Station Master. So did all the drivers, firemen and guards! Soon everyone was talking about the nest. The next day all the newspapers had stories about it, with pictures of Thomas.



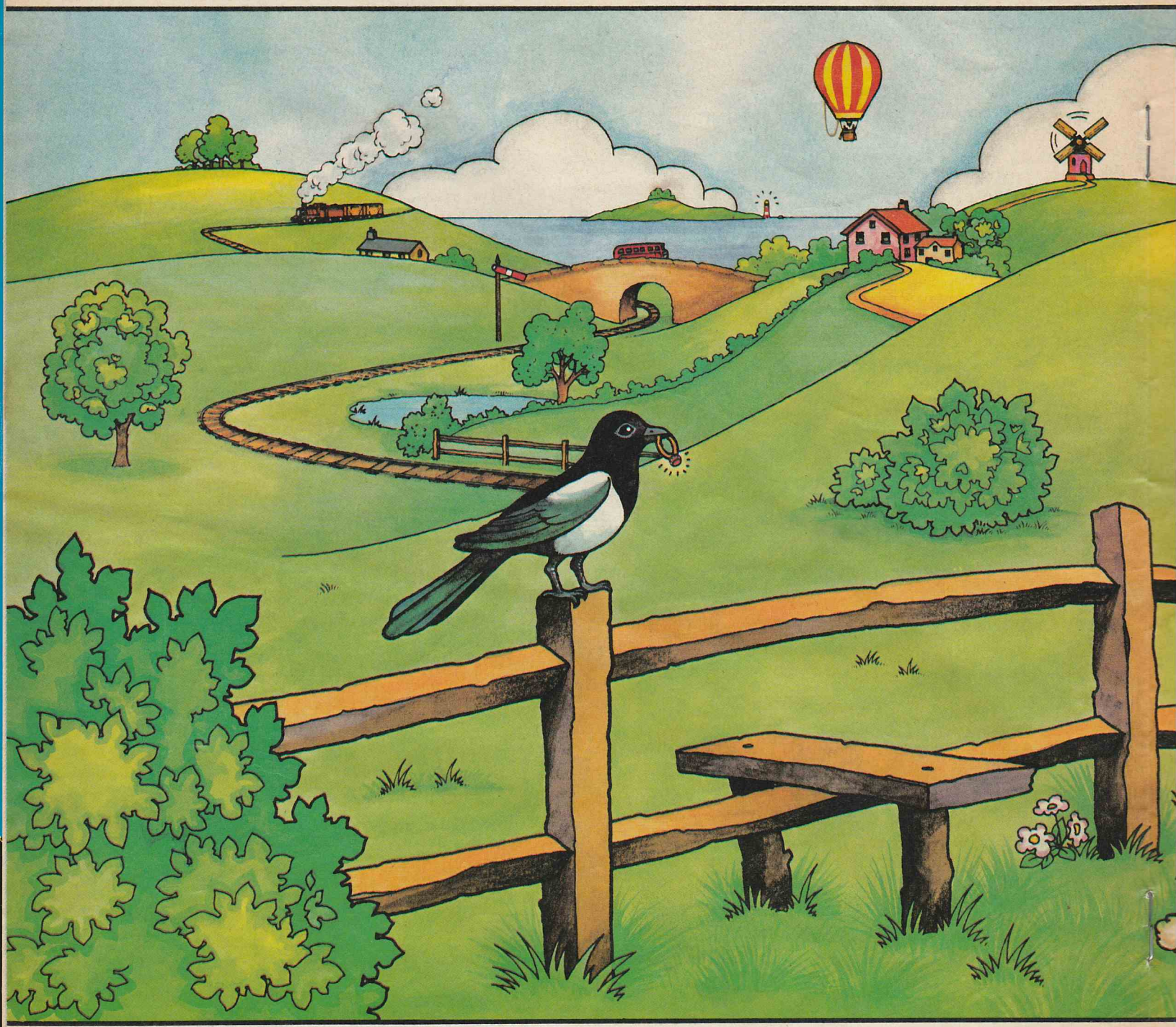
But soon Thomas got tired of all the fuss. He wanted to be out with his friends but he could not get started without ruining the nest. The Fat Controller was worried too. "We need Thomas to run his branch line but I do not want to disturb the nest," he said. Then one of the guards had an idea.

"I know a clever Professor who is on holiday in Sodor. He will know what to do." The Fat Controller told the guard to telephone his friend, and soon the clever Professor arrived. He had a long look at the nest. Then he spoke to the Station Master who found an old drain pipe. They painted it black and set it up on an old water tank beside Thomas. When the birds were away finding food, the Professor carefully lifted the nest off Thomas' funnel and placed it on top of the drainpipe. When the birds came back they went to their nest as though nothing had happened!

nest

Everyone was very pleased, but Thomas most of all. His fireman cleaned his funnel and lit his fire. Soon Thomas was back with Annie and Clarabel. After a few weeks the eggs hatched and as the days passed Thomas watched the young birds grow up. One day they were old enough to fly away but Thomas never forgot them.

Off we go!



How many rabbits can you see?
What has the black and white bird found?
Has Thomas just come out of a tunnel?
What colour is the butterfly?

How many y
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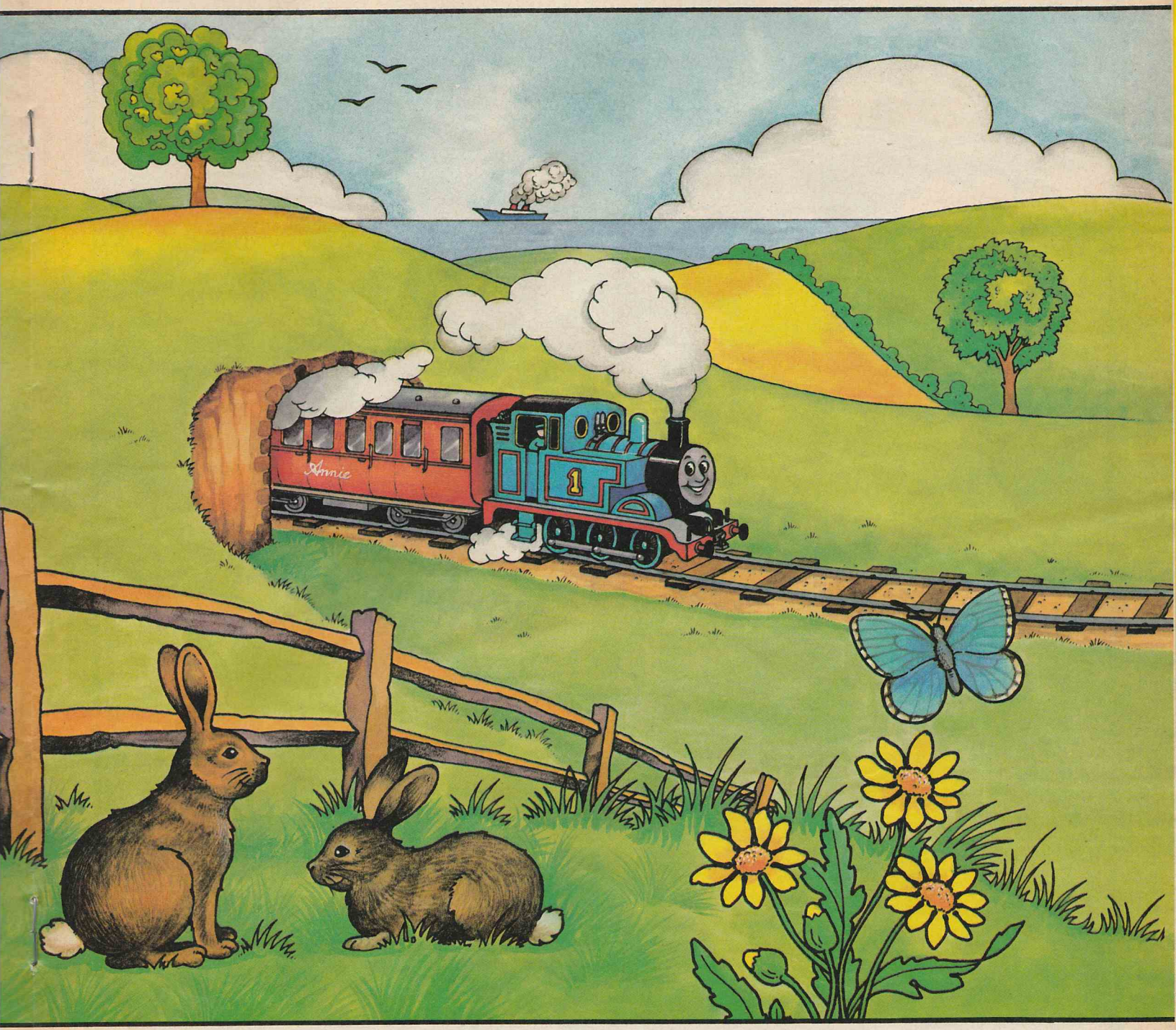


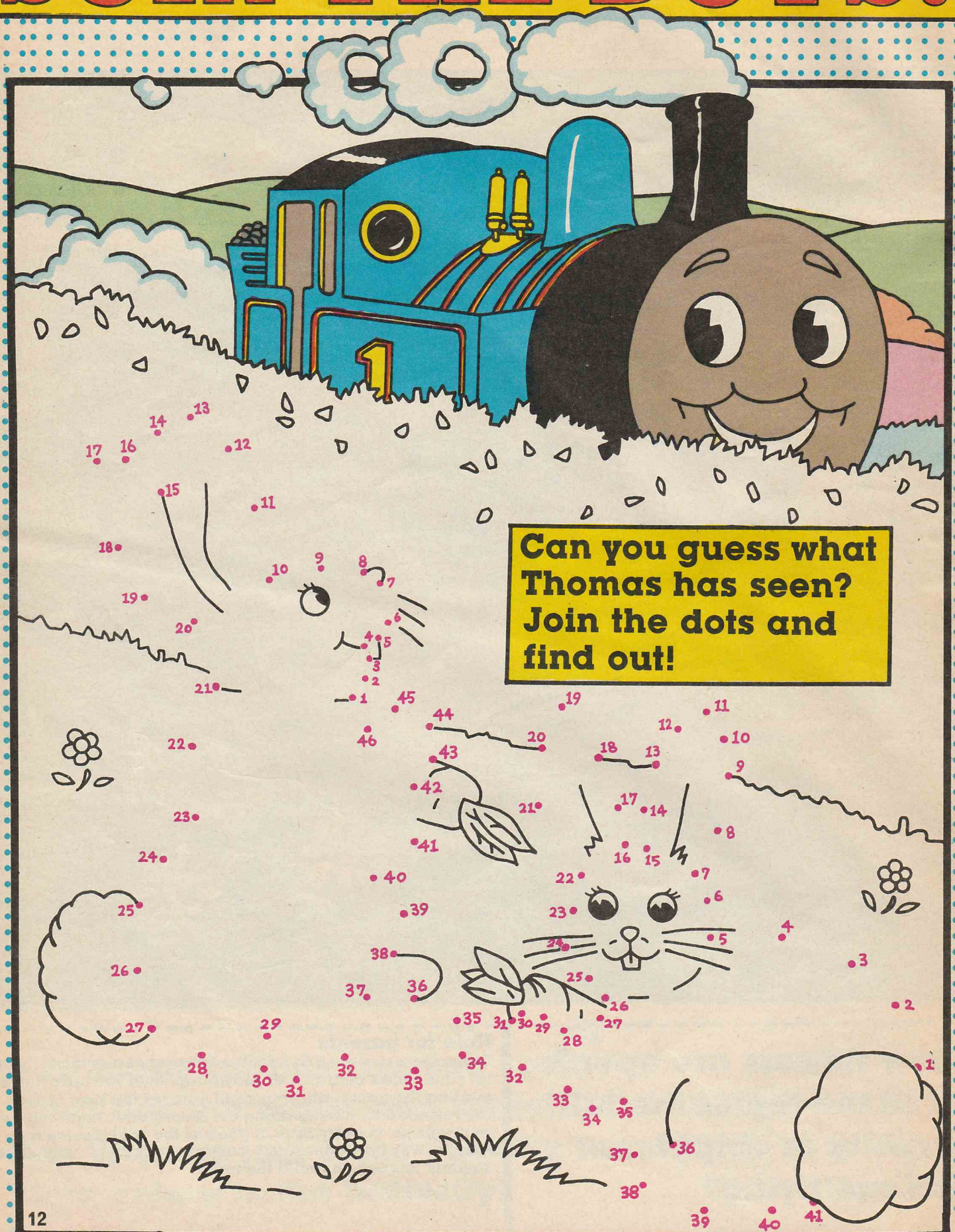
ny yellow flowers are open?
ndmill at the top of the hill?
lloon spotty or stripy?
ny birds are flying?

Note for parents

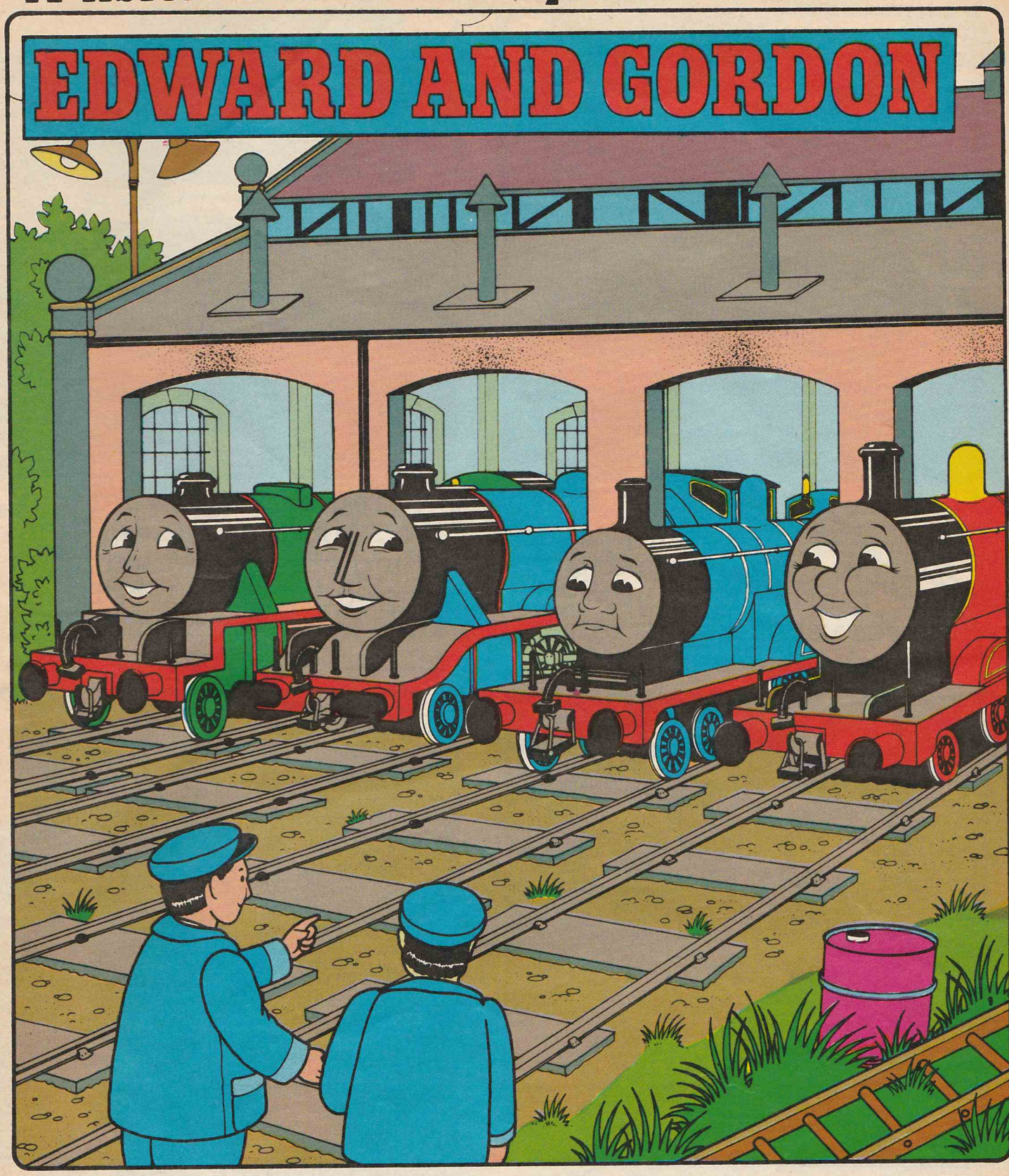
This page is designed to form the first part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom or playgroup. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends.** Why not collect each one and your child can follow Thomas' journey all round the room!

Next: Over the viaduct!

JOIN THE DOTS!



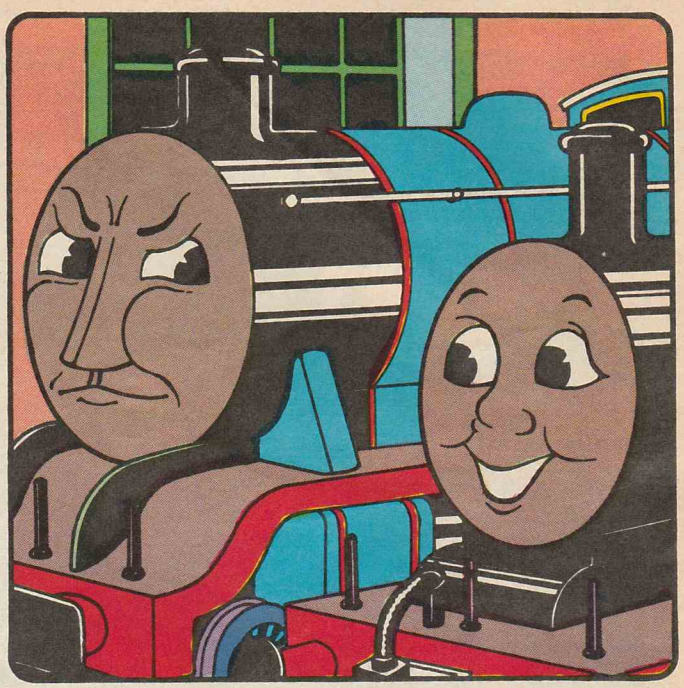
A listen and look story!



1. Edward was in the shed. The other engines were all bigger than him and rather boastful. "The driver will only want strong engines like us," said Gordon.

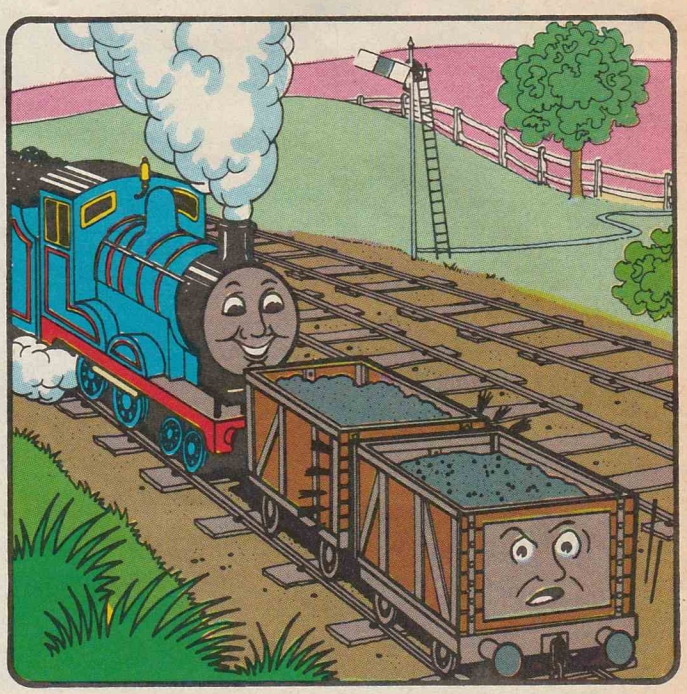
2. But the driver felt sorry for Edward. "Would you like to come out today?" he asked. "Yes, please!" said Edward. The others were cross at being left behind.

3. Edward worked hard all day, pulling the coaches from station to station. The coaches thought he was very kind. His driver was very pleased.

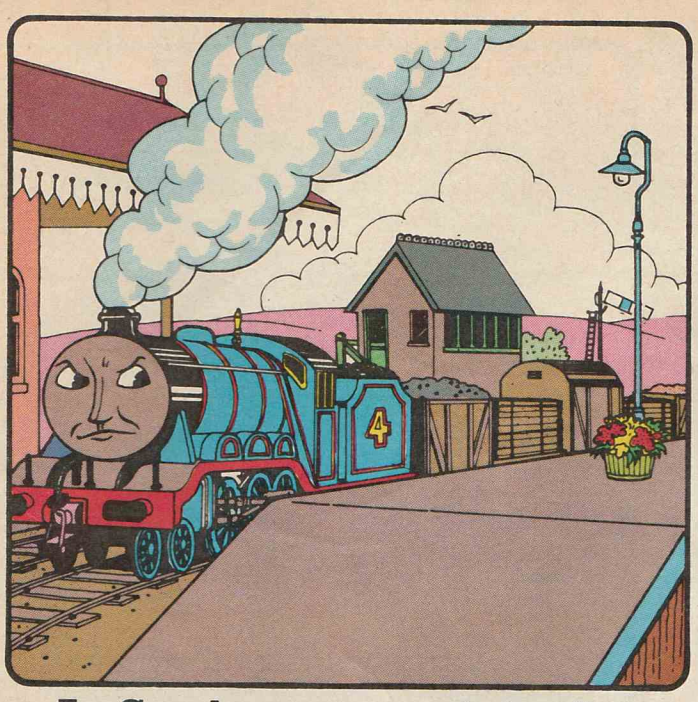


4. That night, Edward told the other engines, "I'm going out again tomorrow. What do you think of that?" Then he was so tired that he fell fast asleep.

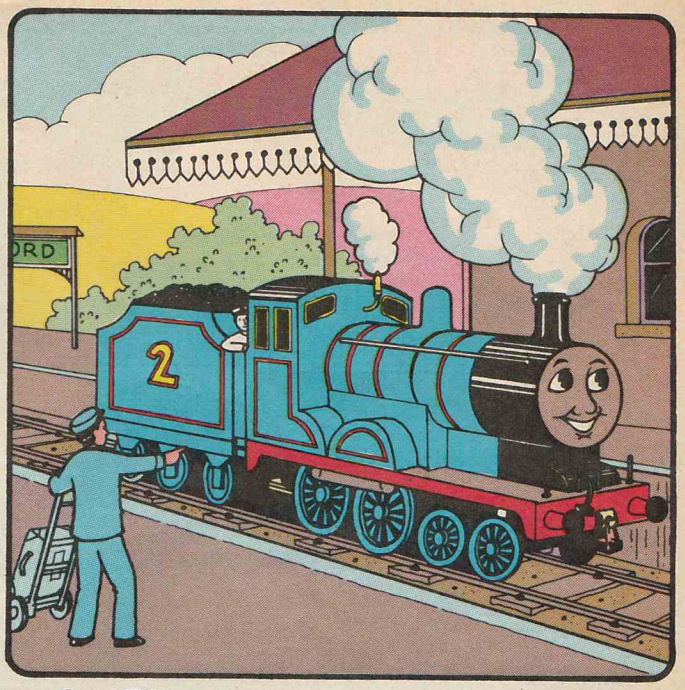
5. Next morning, Gordon was still boasting. "Watch me, little Edward, as I rush through with the express. That will be a splendid sight for you."



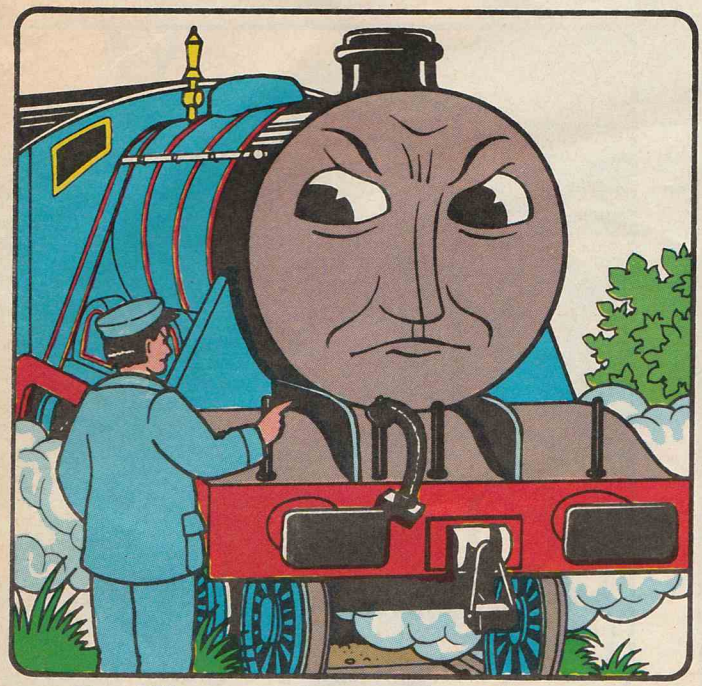
6. Edward went off to do some shunting. It was fun playing with the trucks. He would give them a push and they would go **bump** into each other.



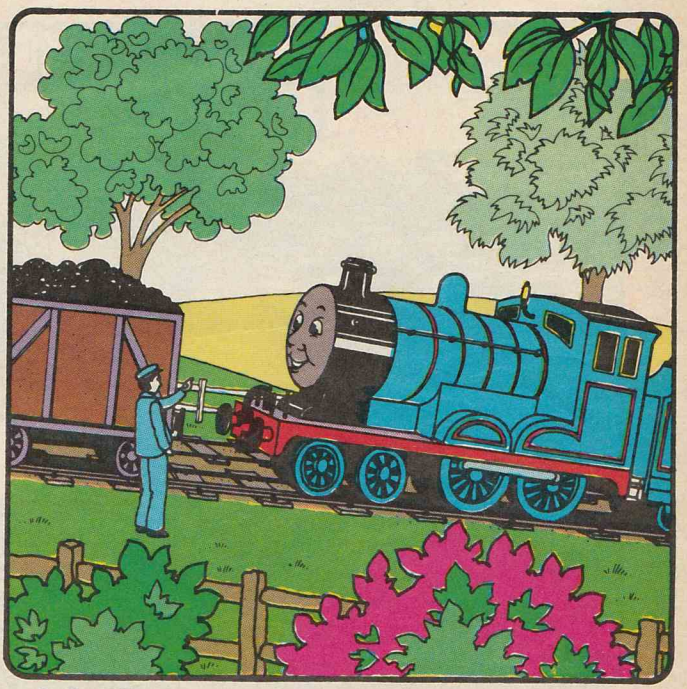
7. Gordon came into the station, very cross. Instead of shining coaches he was pulling a lot of dirty trucks. "Oh dear me! The shame of it!" he grumbled.



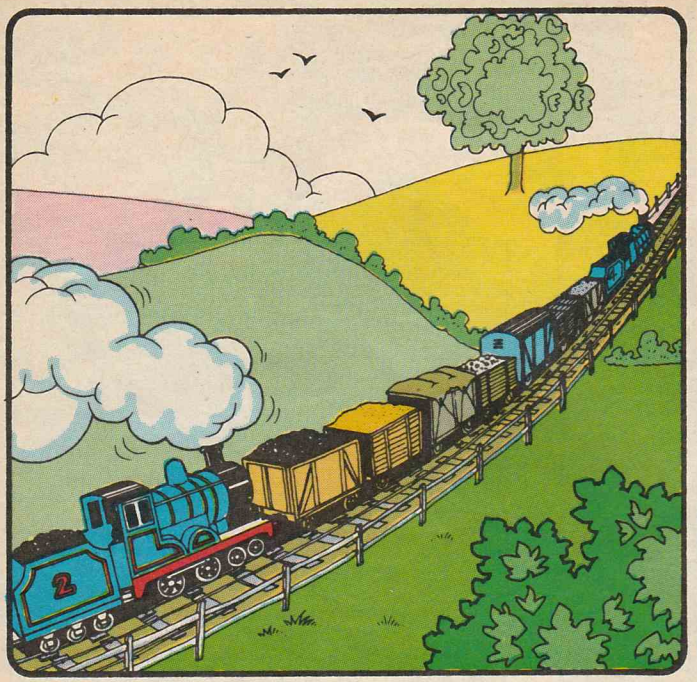
8. Then came trouble. "Gordon can't get up the hill," the porter called to Edward's driver. "Will you take Edward and push him, please?"



9. They found Gordon half-way up and very cross. "You're not trying," his driver said severely. "The noisy trucks are holding me back!" said Gordon crossly.

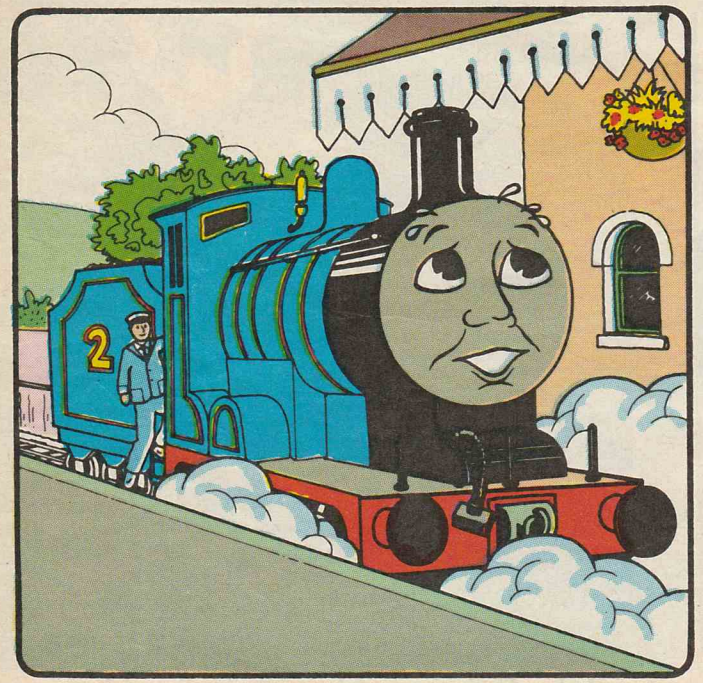


10. Edward's driver came up. "We've come to push," he said. "Huh! No use at all," grumbled Gordon. "You wait and see," said Edward's driver.

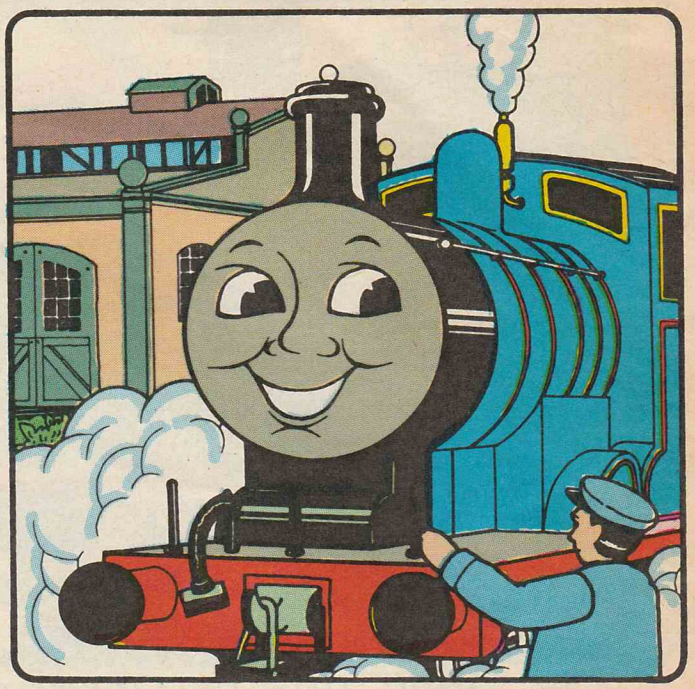


11. They brought Gordon back to the bottom. "I'm ready," said Edward. They pulled and pushed as hard as they could. "I **will** do it!" puffed Edward.

12. Almost before he realised it, Gordon found himself at the top of the hill. "I've done it," he said proudly. He didn't wait to say thank you to Edward.



13. Edward was left behind, out of breath. He ran on slowly to the next station. There he found that the driver and fireman were very pleased with him.



14. "I'll give you a beautiful coat of blue paint with red stripes," said his driver. "Then you'll be the smartest engine in the shed!"

THE END

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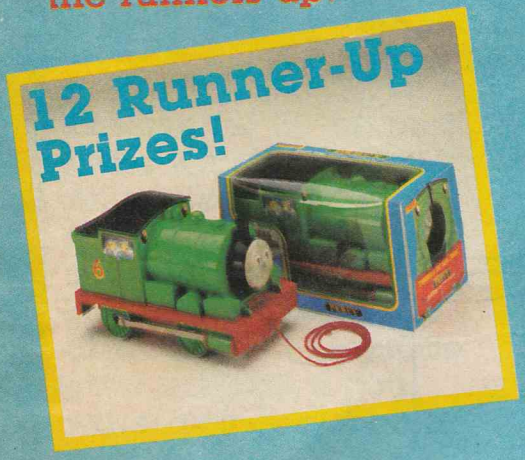
First prize A super Thomas Sit'n'Ride with wagon!

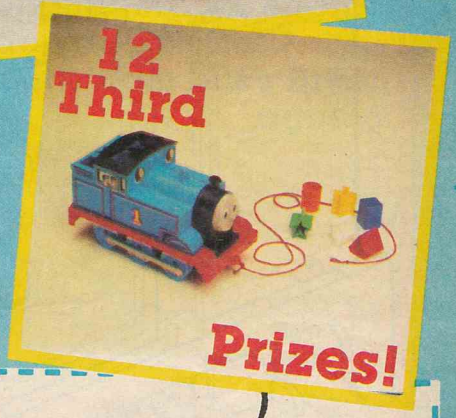
Second prize There are **6** Big Push-Along Trains to be won!

Third prize **12** lucky readers will win a Thomas Pull-Toy Shape-Sorter!

PLUS

There are **12** Percy Pull-Toys for the runners-up!

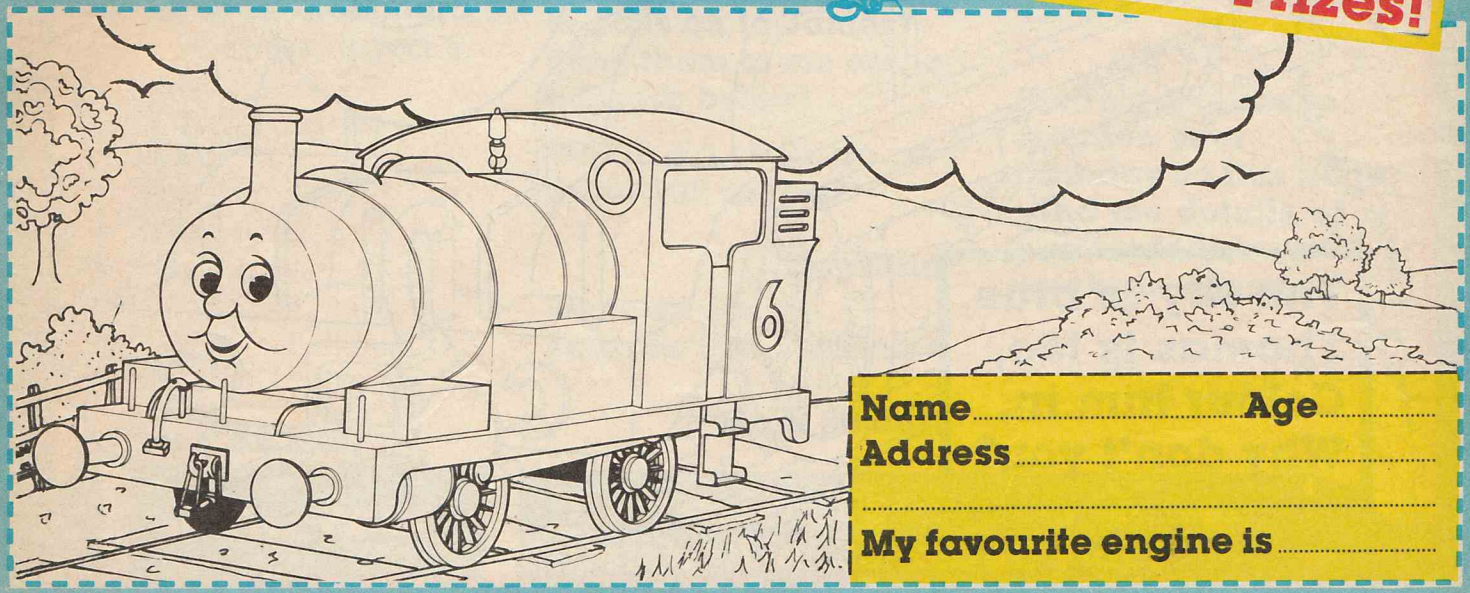




How To Enter

Simply colour in the picture below as carefully as you can and then fill in the form in your neatest handwriting. Cut out this page along the dotted line and send your entry to: *Thomas's Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Entries must reach us by Monday, 23rd November 1987.



Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

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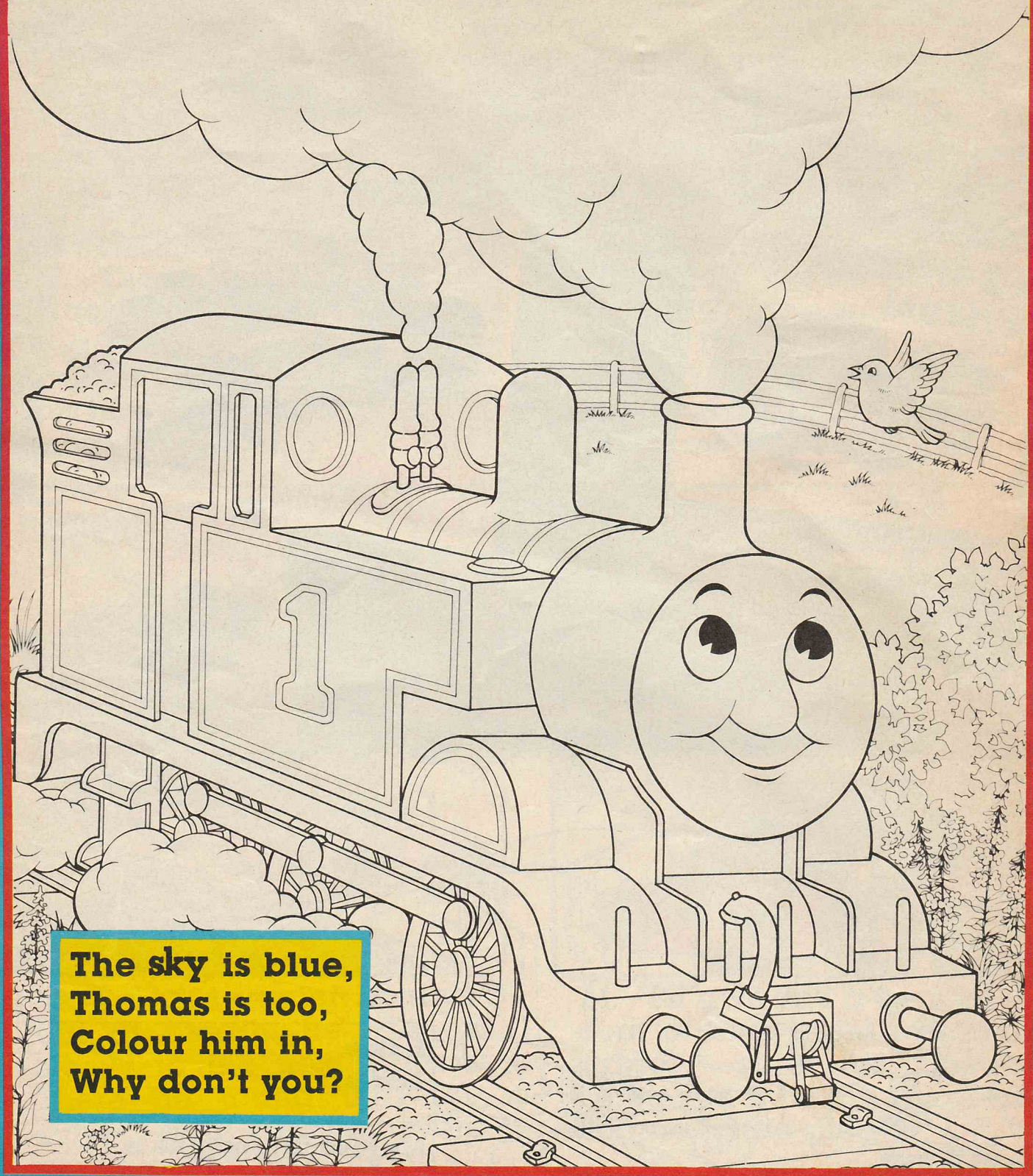
My favourite engine is .....

Rules: No employee of Marvel Comics Ltd, Britt Allcroft Ltd or Merit Toys Ltd may enter this competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

COLOURING TIME!



The sky is blue,
Thomas is too,
Colour him in,
Why don't you?

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got a funny story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address at the bottom of the page! I'd *love* to hear from you!

STAR LETTER PRIZES!

The sender of the best letter which is printed on this page each fortnight we'll win a super **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug!** So don't forget to include your address if you write! You could be a star!

WHAT A CHEEK!

Dear Fat Controller

Is Thomas ever cheeky to you? I get told off at school for being cheeky to my teacher!

Love from **Richard Greer,** aged 5.

*I've heard that Thomas can be cheeky at times, but he is **never** cheeky to me! And I do not like to hear that you are cheeky to your teacher. Upon my soul! You must behave yourself at school, Richard!*

EARLY SIGNS!

Dear Fat Controller

When did you first become interested in trains!

Love from **Mandy Ryan.**

Hmm... I really can't remember! I have a very old photograph of me as a baby, staring at a signal box! So I must have been interested even then!

JAMES'S JAPES!

Do you know any jokes that you would like me to pass on to James? Send them to me at the address below!

Where do cows go on Saturday nights?
To the moovies!

Katy Ellis.

What do steam engines like to drink?
Coala!

Mark Simms.

FAVOURITE ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller

Please will you say hello to Percy for me? He is my favourite engine. Which engine do you like best?

Love from **Mike Brian,** aged 6.

*I'm very fond of all my engines, Mike. I can't say that I have a favourite, although of course I **am** very fond of Thomas!*

BIRTHDAYS!

If you'd like me to mention your birthday on this page, send me details on a postcard, at least *8 weeks* in advance!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

The Fat Controller

Send your letters to:

The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

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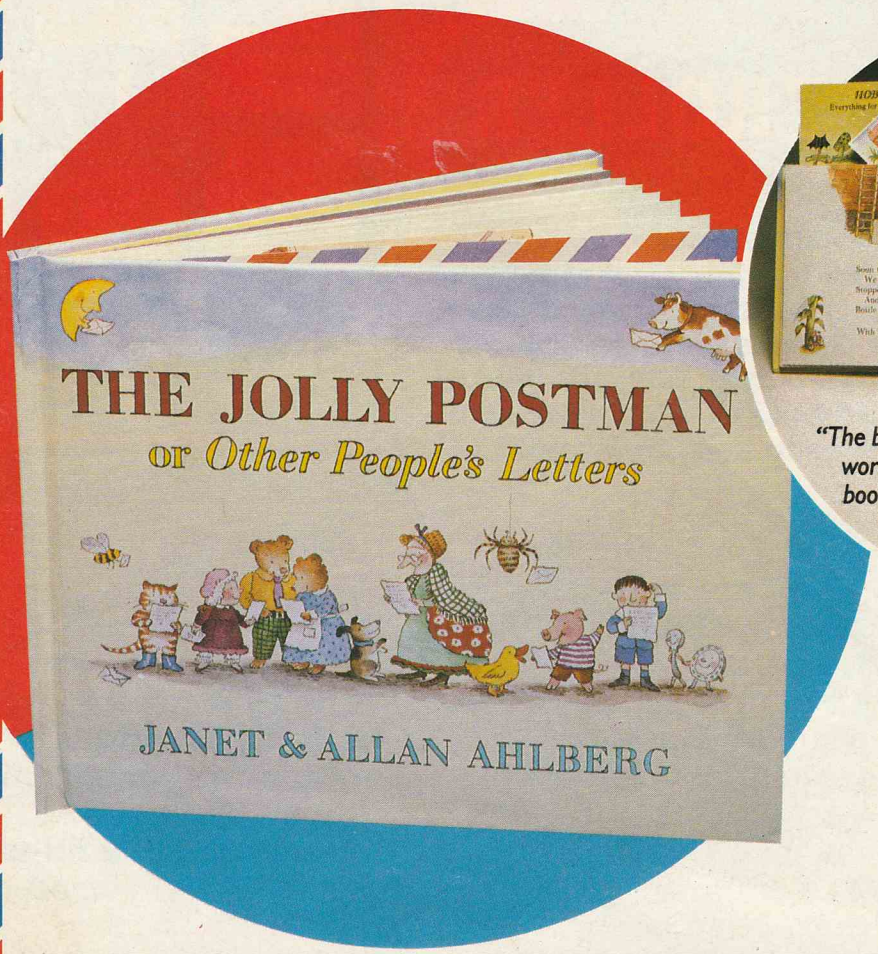

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Please send us our free copy of The Jolly Postman and enrol my family in The Red House. I agree to purchase a minimum of 3 books during our first year's membership.

NAME

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Children's names and dates of birth.

TOM – 10 – 87

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